

WESSEX NEWS

VOL. 2 No. 1

OCTOBER 13TH, 1936

PRICE TWOPENCE

SCAFFOLDING

In the first copy of "Wessex News" ever published, there appeared words which expressed the hope that the paper would enable its readers to keep in contact with all the activities of the College. This has to a large measure been achieved in the past, but the response of the readers has not been as encouraging as might have been expected. For although there has been no reason why the students should not take a great deal of active interest in the various Clubs and Societies, the facilities of which are capable of satisfying a University of twice our size; yet a number of these Clubs are feeling the lack of support badly. This would not be so depressing if one were sure that each student was taking his, or her, full share in the social and athletic, as well as academic, life provided by this College.

It is but common sense that we must all spend a part of our life in recreation. No one would be so unreasonable as to believe that, either the process of swotting for a "first," or the whole time pursuit of recreation, can constitute the best complete occupation of a student. Why then do we find a number of persons who have nothing in common with their fellows save their academic duties? They play no games, they belong to no Societies and have no interest at all in the multitudinous opportunities to achieve the complete education which this University institution affords.

I am at a loss to understand how these people can exist. They must be blind, or else they would see how much enjoyment their more energetic brethren get from their activities in other spheres of College life. They must be deaf, or else they would hear and respond to the entreaties of the Society officials for support. They must be dumb, or else they would ask how they might benefit by Club Membership. Perhaps, however, they are just shy. If so there is still no reason for their backward behaviour, for each club member has at one time past through the "fresher" stage and is able and willing to give every assistance to newcomers.

From these remarks it would seem that most Union affairs are kept flourishing by a few energetic souls. Such is the case to a large extent, but it is no reason why it should be the case in future. The attendance and participation in the Fresher's Social leads one to believe that the blind deaf mute students form a rapidly decaying race. It is up to each of you to ensure that you have nothing in common with this weakly race and to assist in its extermination.

The strength and well-being of the Student Organisation depends entirely upon its members. We have excellent sound foundations upon which to build. We are all builders; some labourers, some foremen and some architects. These classes of builders are not in any way fixed, for each labourer who can improve the design or structure of the building is welcomed, and becomes one of the co-operating architects.

What are the foundations upon which we are building? The oldest and most solid of these foundations is University College, Southampton. The building is well established now, but it requires upkeep, repairs and improvements. The machinery too is good and the mechanics are experts. But the death of Professor Howland and Mr. Clarence Smith has made a gap in the ranks which will be most difficult to fill. All the mechanics and builders mourn the loss of two of their most skilled men.

The Constitution of the Students' Union is a fairly new foundation, the materials of which have set well during last session, and already we have a large building of student activities erected, but the decorations are not yet complete. The various departments in this building are growing too and last session a new department was added. To begin with the department was experimental, but it soon proved itself invaluable and now permanently houses "Wessex News." The department depends for its efficiency upon the use and support it receives, and the builders and mechanics should do their utmost to increase the efficiency.

All the buildings and the machines housed in the various departments are interdependent and again the efficiency of the concern depends upon the energies of the employees. The main reason, why the employees should do their best and devote their whole time to the success and advancement of the whole concern, is that they are all shareholders and by giving their services willingly big dividends reward their efforts.

P. G. Wickens,
President of the Union.

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WESSEX NEWS

IF NOT...WHY NOT?

WESSEX NEWS

Tuesday, October 13th, 1936.

Offices:

STUDENTS' UNION, UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE, SOUTHAMPTON.

Editor: J. F. Gravett.

Sports Editor: D. Tyerman, Esq.

Sports Sub-Editor: V. G. Robson.

Business Manager: A. R. Brown.

EDITORIAL

During the Long Vacation, College has sustained two serious losses in the deaths of Professor Howland and Mr. Clarence Smith. The President has sent messages of sympathy to Mrs. Howland and Mrs. Smith and we are sure that this is indeed an expression of the feelings of each one of us.

It is with diffidence that we step into the shoes of our great predecessor. What he must have endured becomes more and more apparent as the time for publishing the first issues of "Wessex News" draws near, and we fervently hope that we may be blessed with staying power like his.

The President of the Union has been energetically addressing the various Halls during the past week. The plea he put forward for increased and active interest in "Wessex News" and in all Union activities was one often heard last session, but we hope it will not need to be heard again after this. Our Vice-President for this session is Miss M. D. Scott whose return to College we welcome.

All kind-hearted seniors must feel immensely cheered when they consider the eager joy of the Fresher waiting impatiently to exchange his twopenny for his first "Wessex News." How many newcomers fully realise what a great privilege is theirs in being able to purchase such a paper? It makes one almost long to be a Fresher again.

1. The Editor is not responsible for the views expressed in signed articles.

2. Correspondents are asked to make their letters as brief and to the point as possible.

3. The Editor regrets that, owing to lack of space, it is impossible to print Society reports unless they have genuine news value.

FOR SALE. Bike, 3-speed, Hub-brakes. Only 10 months old. Sentimental value to owner—only selling because leaving country. Apply Kong, c/o Emery, M.C.R.

Prof. R. C. J. Howland

There is an idea commonly held, not only by the uninformed but by some who might know better, that a great scholar cannot be a good teacher because "he cannot appreciate the difficulties." It may be the consequence of the different ways in which the minds of great scholars act. For some seem to arrive at conclusions by the intuition of genius, an intuition only given to those who have an immense background of information and co-ordinated ideas, but to whom the process of thought by which the conclusions were reached is a matter of little importance. For others, the foundations of their thought and the logical processes leading to their conclusions are so clear that "the difficulties" are apparent, since they are aware at what stage of the reasoning the argument itself is difficult or the students' background is insufficient.

Every student who had the privilege of studying under Professor Howland will agree that he belonged to the second class. Of his many gifts, that of the teacher was the most outstanding. He had unerring choice of matter arranged and delivered with great clarity, and his very wise knowledge of Mathematics was readily placed at the service of all comers, and few can have known the personal sacrifices involved in his unsparring gifts of himself and his time. He had a capacity for sustained work given to few and this capacity was strained to the utmost. Very few Professors in any University have given up their time to coaching individual students as he did and there are many to remember his unflinching friendliness and accessibility.

His position as Professor of Mathematics brought him into official touch with almost every Department in the College. His sanity of view and his interested advice were of the greatest value on all the many Committees of which he was a member. His opinions were fearlessly expressed and never aggressively. Not being the reflection of the mood of the moment, they were not liable to unexpected change and everybody felt that he was to be trusted, not only as to his opinion, but as to his working for the cause he

(continued in next column)

believed in with all his power. He had a very great belief in the importance of justice and was always ready to stand up for any individual or group of people whom he thought had not had a fair chance. This feeling for truth and justice seemed to those who knew him well to be the foundation of his whole life.

His mathematical work had been growing steadily in importance and significance. His published papers were numerous considering his very heavy lecturing and administrative duties.

He co-operated with a member of Supermarines in research on the air flow round the wings of aeroplanes and related subjects, and was one of the best informed men in England on the difficult subject of Aerodynamics. He had also produced papers on the stresses in certain Engineering problems of some complexity.

With all this he found time for wide and fastidious reading on a surprising range of subjects. He had a abiding interest in most forms of art, a love of the older forms combined with an interest in the modern. But his great love in Art was for Music, of which his unusually sensitive ear made him a fine judge. Here again students were always welcome to hear his fine gramophone and collection of records.

The College is painfully the poorer for the loss of a charming and friendly personality, a great scholar and a fine administrator of whom it might be said as C. E. Montague said of the friend to whom he dedicated his best known work: "He was not ruled by fear or desire and you could believe what he said."

A. M. Trout.

PERSONAL COLUMN.

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A. E. Clarence Smith

By the death on September 16th of Mr. A. E. Clarence Smith at the age of 49 the College lost a most valuable organiser and a great teacher.

Alton Ewart Clarence Smith, after a distinguished career at Leys School, went to Christ's College, Cambridge where he took first classes in the Natural Science Tripos parts I and II. He afterwards held an appointment at the Marine Biological Station, Plymouth where he developed the technique of photo-micrography in which he was later to become a recognised authority. He volunteered for military service in 1914, and served with the South Lancashire Regiment, holding the rank of Captain. After active service in France, he was invalided out of the army, and later took up a position in an armament firm where his chemical training was of considerable service.

In 1919 he came to University College, Southampton as lecturer in Physical Chemistry, and devoted himself to the teaching of this subject and to research work in optics. Clarence Smith's great teaching ability was recognised alike by students and by his colleagues on the staff. His lectures, lucid and comprehensive, were delivered in that critical and precise manner which was so characteristic of all his activities. Moreover his capacity for wise and unprejudiced judgment gave him a well established reputation in the councils of the College and in the minds of the many who so often sought his advice. For carefully planned work and meticulous accuracy of detail, Clarence Smith had few equals, and his researches in photo-micrography were recognised by the leading authorities.

Before the first lecture of the session in the Chemistry department the following resolution was passed by the staff and students.

The Staff and Students of the Chemistry Department of University College, Southampton have learned with deep sorrow of the death on September 16th of Mr. A. E. Clarence Smith, Senior Lecturer in Physical Chemistry. They feel that they cannot begin the work of the new session without in the first place recording their gratitude and admiration for his work during the 17 years in which he was in charge of the teaching of Physical Chemistry at the College, and their sense of the great loss which the College has sustained by his death. To Mrs. Clarence Smith and the family they extend their sincerest sympathy.

We feel that those of us who are in other departments of the College would associate ourselves with this tribute to one who has served the interests of the College so well.

A. L.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17th

FRESHERS'
DEBATE

MUSIC STUDIO

11.15 a.m.

ATHLETIC UNION.

Women Win Universities' Championship

Failures in Opening Matches : Soccer Beaten 11-0

Many Clubs Hampered by Lack of Support

THE COLLEGE'S FIRST UNIVERSITIES CHAMPIONSHIP!

On the last day of last term when all but a few students had gone down for the Long Vacation the *Women's Tennis Team* brought off a very fine and unexpected victory in the final of the W.I.V.A.B. Championship. They played Leeds (Midland Champions) at Birmingham, having already won the Southern Championship and defeated Nottingham (the Northern Champions). The victory was the more noteworthy in that one change had to be made from the recognised team that had won its way to the final.

In the first three matches played U.C.S. won two. The second set of matches settled the issue as the College won all three gaining a winning lead of 5-1. One other match was played and this was also won by U.C.S. The play in the final was disappointing as the opposition was not of the same standard as that met and defeated in previous ties. All the members of the team played very well indeed, showing great steadiness. This, combined with determination, carried them to a well earned victory. In congratulating every member of the team we must not forget the hard work put into coaching the successful team by the Captain, Miss Clare. She was playing her last game for the College and it was indeed a fitting climax to the three years in the team during which she had not lost a match. Four members of the team were playing in their first season of College tennis and as three of the team still remain we may hope they will be able to repeat their victory next year.

R. A. POPE

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1st pair, Miss Clare and Miss Girdlestone.
2nd pair, Miss Bethel and Miss Comben.
3rd pair, Miss Pavard and Miss Nettleton.

(In previous ties Miss Foster played in place of Miss Nettleton).

Saturday's Results.

First teams.

Soccer v King Alfred's College (home): Lost 0-11.
Men's Hockey v R.A.F., Calshot (home): Won 3-2.
Women's Hockey v Ithen Sec. School (home): Lost 2-3.

Second teams.

Soccer v King Alfred's College (away): Lost 2-5.
Men's Hockey v Calshot (away): Lost 1-8.
Women's Hockey v Ithen Sec. School (home): Lost 0-10.

Women's Hockey Prospects.

The loss of Miss Foster at a long last will be a difficulty hard enough to overcome; and in addition, Miss Pavard has had to resign the captaincy. Only three seniors remain, and so far the talent of the freshers has not been very obvious; a few more seniors are taking up the game however, and with the return of Miss Scott, the outlook is not quite so pessimistic as might at first appear; Miss Luff, the newly-elected captain will carry out her best wishes for her task of team building.

WOMEN'S HOCKEY.

1st XI v Ithen Secondary School 1st XI.

Play in the first half of this match was fast and keen with the College team playing better than we had dared to hope. The forward line was too definitely a line of five individuals and lacked combination. This, however, was made up for by eagerness and at half-time the score was 2-0 in favour of College. Miss Luff and Miss Scott were the scorers.

In the second half play slowed down; the College team lost touch with each other and never reached the standard of play they attained in the first half. Three great efforts by the Ithen forwards, combined with the fact that our defence has not yet mastered the art of covering, made the score 3-2 against College at the end of the match.

As this is the first time the team has played together, they put up quite a good performance. We should however like to appeal to

all women freshers to come up to the field on Saturday for a practice as we still need any talent we can find.

2nd XI v Ithen Secondary School—Lost 10-0.

With a very scratch team the 2nd XI put up a better show than the score suggests. There was some excuse for this defeat as the team had never played together before and for some players it was the first game of the season. We hope, in future matches, to field a stronger 2nd XI.

Soccer Prospects.

Although three of the finest footballers the College has ever had have left us, a strong band of players remains this season. Seven regular members of last season's team remain, whilst there are several others available who have claims to first team selection. In addition, freshers have revealed themselves as more promising than has been the case for several seasons. Unfortunately, injuries have already upset arrangements, and four first team members are at present on the sick list. With their return, a good sound team may be expected.

A real attempt at training and tactic talks will also help the club to keep up its attractive standard of play. They are to visit Andover again for the first round game of the Hants Senior Cup. As Andover are not so strong as last season, it is hoped that the College will be able to give them a closer fight than last year.

Soccer v K.A.C., Winchester.

College opened the soccer season with a home game against King Alfred's College, Winchester. Trial matches had revealed several promising players among the "Freshers" and two were included in the 1st XI team. Robson lost the toss and Winchester took advantage of a fairly strong wind. It was soon obvious that Winchester were a fast, well-trained team and they set a cracking pace. College were mainly on the defensive and were generally employed in stopping the movements of the visiting forward line. The visitors had most of the play but College kept them out for twenty minutes after which time Winchester scored direct from a free kick for "hands" just outside the penalty area. Winchester continued to dominate the game and scored six more goals before half-time.

In the second half College came more into the picture but they

couldn't get going. The play was not so fast, for Winchester appeared to tire as the game went on. Yet they scored four more goals and so ran out easy winners. Had it not been for some fine goal-keeping by Robson the score would have been even heavier. The Winchester team were too fast for College who appeared slow in tackling. They had a big side and had a brilliant forward line and half-back line. College were best served by Robson and Cowling and Belton was the pick of the forwards.

College should not however be disheartened by this heavy defeat for it was the first game of the season and they were distinctly unfortunate to meet such a good side in their first game.

THE BOAT CLUB.

The Boat Club is unique among the clubs at College, in offering all its members regular recreation three times a week. With its new Boat House, acquired last term, many difficulties have been overcome, the chief being that the Club's activities are now less dependent on the tides.

There is no reason why the Club should not have a very successful season, and the members are looking forward especially to the Provincial Universities' Championship, where they hope to do at least as well as last year. In addition they are trying to arrange one or two new fixtures, probably against London clubs.

It is the Club's intention to have races for all its members—if not against other clubs, then against each other.

The Club owes a great deal to Wickens who spent a large amount of his vacation manufacturing swivel rowlocks, which otherwise we could not possibly have afforded. As in the past, the Club is able to continue owing to generous and voluntary assistance of this kind.

NOTE—It is hoped that Our Special Correspondent will have news of the *Women's Boat Club* for publication in the next issue of "Wessex News." He hopes to interview Dr. E. A. G. Knowles on this subject and to secure information concerning the meeting of oarswomen to be held in College this week.

THE ROWING CLUB

provides ALL its members with enjoyable exercise three days a week

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Secretary: R. G. D. KITE.

CROSS COUNTRY.

Fate has been very cruel to the C.C.C. in so far that both captain and secretary are doing school practice out of the town this term. This of necessity upsets the organisation of this flourishing Club, but with a nucleus of very keen seniors a good season is anticipated. The keenness of these seniors should prove a fine incentive to freshers who sometimes seem shy of joining up at once.

MEN'S HOCKEY.

The Men's Hockey Club is in the unenviable position of having lost most of last season's players. All the stalwarts of the team have gone down and are unavailable, and the Club will have to rely entirely on the prowess of the freshers, if they are to have any measure of success. The organisation of the Club has also suffered over the Long Vacation, and an entirely new set of officials has yet to be elected. However, the freshers appear to show considerable promise, and a fair season for two elevens may be anticipated.

NETBALL CLUB.

The Netball Club hope to have a more successful season than the last. The Club has been fortunate in retaining most of its members and will welcome any Freshers who care to join. As yet the response from the Freshers has not been so great as had been hoped.

Rugger Prospects.

Six of last year's forwards and four outsiders have left, but the vacancies should be easily filled, and the first XV should have a successful season. The chief difficulty lies in the 2nd XV. The number of freshers, who have signed up for rugger, is insufficient and unless more do so, it will be impossible to raise a side. This would be disastrous, not only for the standard of College Rugger despite the competence of this year's first XV, but also for the Athletic Union which aims to provide the greatest possible variety of facilities for its members

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Correspondence

The Editor of Wessex News,
Sir,

While travelling in the North recently with three other Sotonians several interesting problems presented themselves to my mind—perhaps some of your Northern readers can solve them.

Firstly, if there is such an acute unemployment problem, why are the buses of Doncaster conducted by ladies fair? Is Doncaster at war with somebody, or is it going to attract more passengers?

Further, why do so many shops contain gambling machines? Does the Northerner like spending pennies or is he still so backward that he imagines he might win something some day?

Lastly, we were told (by a Yorkshireman) that the chief difference between the inhabitants of Lancashire and those of Yorkshire is that Lancashire men are rather proud of being Northerners, whereas Yorkshiremen do try to improve themselves a bit. Is this true?

Yours etc.,
G. A. Hemming.

ECONOMICS FACULTY
DINNER.

At 7.30 on the last Tuesday of the Summer Term the Economics Faculty, staff and students (most of the former being accompanied by their wives) met together in the Blue Room of the Crown Hotel for a Faculty Dinner.

After an excellent dinner had been disposed of, Students took Staff—and Staff replied in equally complimentary vein.

The speeches which followed—and nearly everyone contributed, in one capacity or another—reflected the heterogeneous interests and activities of the members of the Faculty. Matters musical, fustian, and romantic were among the topics touched upon. The two "die-hards" defended their faith courageously if unconvincingly.

We were turned out soon after 10 (p.m.), opinion by that time being unanimous that the occasion must be but the first of a long series of equally successful Annual Faculty Dinners. (In fact, our Dean, we know, would welcome the insertion of "bi-" or even "tri-" before the "Annual".)

A RECORD.

Russell of the College Swimming Club broke the Hampshire quarter-mile record by 7 seconds during the Vacation. Congratulations!

AN APPEAL.

The Senior Treasurer requests all Secretaries who have not yet done so to submit their estimates for the coming season at once.

PAR EXEMPLE.

It is rumoured that a freshman member of a College side, having missed the bus to an away match, took a taxi to arrive in time, at a

FRESHERS' SOCIAL

The Freshers' Social started late, which is nothing unusual. With solemn ceremony Kelly was brought in, and then came a Supper Dance.

The first speech after supper was that of the President of the Union, who welcomed the Freshers and expressed his hope that they would enter heartily into every student activity. The whole assembly stood silent for several minutes as a mark of respect to "two of the best friends of the College," Prof. Howland and Mr. Clarence Smith. The Principal said it was the fifteenth Freshers' Social he had attended, and he saw now that with a more responsible Student Body the College was becoming "a real going concern." Although, he thought there was a danger here of increasing social activities at the expense of the academic side. The Freshers have become members of a community, to the traditions of which they must be loyal. We must give and receive gladly.

Ridgewell, Secretary of the Union, spoke on behalf of the N.U.S., gave an outline of its functions, and indicated its extreme usefulness.

Miss Barr spoke for the "West Saxon," A. R. Brown for "Wessex News" and Vernon for the S.C.M. Miss Ellis championed the Debating Society, expressing surprise at the strong attractions of the Library and Refectory on Saturday mornings.

Miss O'Neill appealed for more support for the Operatic Society. K. J. Newman spoke for the League of Nations' Union, and Jeans for the Students' Orchestra. The Chess Club had R. H. E. Bishop as spokesman, and the Socialist Society had D. R. Pearce.

R. E. Wife spoke for the Athletic Union, stressing the fact that last term the women won the U.A.U. tennis championship. By contrast the women's Athletics team was poorly supported.

With a sing-song, a few more dances and a Goli on the lawn the Freshers' Social ended, having been enjoyed by most people, although in the opinion of one gentleman at least the band could have been better.

Continued from previous column.
cost of 12/6 (twelve shillings and sixpence)!

The Editor is informed that the Captain of Men's Tennis has literally kept his eye on the new hard tennis courts for at least three hours daily during the past ten weeks. A proposal to floodlight the courts for observation during the long winter evenings will probably prove financially impracticable.

The Secretary of Soccer, it is alleged, has added fingerprints to the dossier which he has compiled of each newly-joined member of his Club. To know all is to forgive all.

Calendar

Tuesday, 13th Oct.

5.15 p.m. Choral Society meeting.

Wednesday, 14th Oct.

7.30 p.m. Institute of Electrical Engineers: Hants Sub-Centre.
7.30 p.m. Royal Aeronautical Society, "Careers in Aeronautics" by Wing-Commander T. R. Cave-Browne-Cave (Professor of Engineering, U.C.S.).
8.15 p.m. Southampton Youth Peace Council. "Spain." Mr. John Park (of St. Edmund Hall, Oxford) who has just returned from Spain, will open discussion. At Adyar Hall, Carlton Cres.

Thursday, 15th Oct.

Room 1, 1.20. Herr G. Kontges, "Some Aspects of German Art."
7.30 p.m. Southampton and District Gardeners' Society. "Dahlia's" by Mr. F. Baker (Portsmouth Parks).

Friday, 16th Oct.

5.15 p.m. Chemical Society meeting.
5.30 p.m. English Association (South-ton Branch). "Gerard Manley Hopkins," by Prof. J. E. V. Crofts, B.A., B.Litt.
Winterstock Professor of English Literature in the University of Bristol. At Connaught Hall.
6.30 p.m. Women's Social. (Phiz.), at Hall.

Saturday, 17th Oct.

11.15 a.m. Freshers' Debate.
5 p.m. Chamber Music Club.

Members of the general public interested in any particular activity are invited to communicate with the Deputy Registrar, University College.

In most cases an invitation will be gladly extended to interested persons, but in certain cases membership of the particular society is essential.

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